

Now we will mention settlers who came to the area. In September of 1810, Levi Norton, David Gaylord, Rufus Grennell and S. E. North came from Connecticut, and upon arrival in Clinton were so impressed that word was sent to Levi's son Alva, who arrived on Christmas day, 1811, and erected a cabin near where the Clinton Church now stands. The next year more families of the Baptist faith also came. Religious services were held in the homes and in 1813 Alva Norton conducted the first Bible school in Wayne County. In the year of 1831, on Oct. 23, the brothers and sisters of the neighborhood gathered at the home of Deacon Rufus Grennell and discussed the propriety of organizing an independent church. Deacons were appointed to report on a covenant and articles of Faith at a meeting to be held on November 3, 1831, at which time the report was presented and adopted. A call was issued for a council of recognition on Nov. 10, 1831. The new church was recognized by the council with 24 charter members. Charter members were, Michael Grennell, Jonathon Sanders, Reuben Peck, Harriet Norton, Lydia Campbell, Joanna Gaylord, Elizabeth Marshall, Beulah Blanding, D. S. West, Sallie A. Peck, Amanda North, Caroline Walters, John Reynolds, Ruth Kenyon, William Bailey, Rufus Grennell, Olive Norton, Sylvester E. North, Ovid Grennell, Ann Grennell, Jasper Grennell, Susanna Grennell, Phoebe Grennell. Meetings were held in the homes until a proper edifice could be erected, which was completed and the first meeting held in the fall of 1846. On July 25, 1851 the building was completely destroyed by a hurricane, the debris scattered for miles. The original communion set was found and has now been returned to the church and is enclosed in a cabinet. Rev. W. K. Mott preached the dedicatory sermon. A new church was built and dedicated on January 24, 1855. In memory of the old pioneers and ministers, E. M. Peck had a natural flint conglomerate rock erected across the road from the church. The rock came from the Moosic Mountains and weighs six tons. In 1915 when the rock memorial was erected, the flag which covered it was removed by Mrs. Laura Griswold Loomis who was 89 years old at the time. She was the daughter of Francis Griswold. In the fall of 1832 the Bethany church issued a call to Rev. Henry Curtis of Conklin, Broome County, N. Y. to become their pastor. He accepted the call and with his wife, Eliza Banning Curtis, and three children, moved to Bethany (then the County seat) and bought a home, and commenced his work there as pastor. The family lived in Bethany for